IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a succession of electronic documents into a ~~computer~~ document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time; and

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents:

the computer system generating a corresponding unique time-based identifier identifying a date and time of day that ~~corresponding to the point in time at which~~ the electronic document was received by the computer system; ~~and~~

the computer system storing, in a storage array, a respective plurality of attributes relating to the electronic document in each of a plurality of tables of a relational database accessible to the computer system, wherein each of the plurality of tables includes the generated unique time-based identifier as one of its respective plurality of attributes, and wherein at least one of the plurality of tables includes a first attribute containing information indicating a location of a physical document corresponding to the electronic document; and

the computer system accessing the plurality of attributes for the electronic document in at least one of the plurality of tables using the corresponding unique time-based identifier for the electronic document

~~storing the electronic document in a storage system at a storage location corresponding to the unique time-based identifier for the electronic document; and~~

~~storing a record associated with the electronic document in the storage system, wherein the record contains information indicating the physical location of an original physical document corresponding to the electronic document;~~

~~wherein the electronic document is retrievable from the storage system using its unique time-based identifier.~~

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein, for a given electronic document received by the computer system:

a first of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to an entity originating the given electronic document; and

a second of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the location of a physical document corresponding to the given electronic document. ~~said receiving includes receiving a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the unique time-based identifier of the first electronic document corresponds to the first date and the first time of day.~~

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein ~~the first point in~~ a date and time of day at which a given electronic documents is received by the computer system corresponds to a date and time of day at which ~~when~~ the first electronic document was created by imaging a physical document.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26[[5]], further comprising the computer system retrieving a given electronic document in the succession of electronic documents from the storage array using the corresponding unique time-based identifier for the given electronic document; and

wherein the ~~first~~ time of day is specified by at least an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said receiving includes:

receiving imaged electronic documents; and/or

receiving computer generated electronic documents.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the imaged electronic documents include electronic documents that were created by imaging corresponding physical documents, wherein each corresponding physical document is marked with the corresponding unique time-based identifier after said imaging.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the computer generated electronic documents include electronic documents received from one or more of the following sources: word processing programs, graphics programs, e-mail, facsimile transmissions.

31-32. (Canceled)

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
       accessing a first electronic document stored in the storage system using a first unique time-based identifier, wherein the first unique time-based identifier corresponds to a first date and point in time of day when the first electronic document was received into the document management system.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[24]] 25, wherein:
       a third of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to a task associated with the given electronic document; and
       a fourth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the physical document that corresponds to the given electronic document, wherein an attribute in the fourth table includes a type of physical document.
       further comprising: generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, <u>wherein a fifth of the plurality of tables is</u> <u>configured to store a unique value for the given document, wherein the unique value is formed</u> <u>by a combination of a value of a first key of the first table and a value of a second key of the</u> <u>second table.</u>

~~further comprising:~~

~~for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, updating one or more~~ ~~tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.~~

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes <u>in addition to the unique time-based identifier</u>.

38-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A document management system comprising:

an input unit configured to receive a succession of electronic documents, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

a storage subsystem coupled to the input unit and configured to store the succession of electronic documents in a storage array using corresponding unique time-based identifiers;

a computer system coupled to both the input unit and the storage subsystem, wherein the computer system is configured, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, to:

generate a unique time-based identifier corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received into the document management system~~; and to~~

use the unique time-based identifier to store the electronic document in the storage subsystem; and

store a respective plurality of attributes relating to ~~a record associated with~~ the electronic document in each of a plurality of tables of a relational database ~~the storage subsystem~~, wherein each of the plurality of tables includes the unique time-based identifier for the electronic document as one of its respective attributes, and wherein at least one of the plurality of tables includes a first attribute ~~the record~~ containing~~[[s]]~~ information indicating a ~~the physical~~ location of ~~an original~~ physical document corresponding to the electronic document; and

access the plurality of attributes for the electronic document in at least one of the plurality of tables using the corresponding unique time-based identifier for the electronic document; and

wherein the succession of electronic documents is retrievable from the storage array ~~system~~ using corresponding unique time-based identifiers.

42.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the input unit is configured to receive a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the computer system is configured to generate a unique time-based identifier for the first electronic document that corresponds to the first date and the first time of day.

43.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41 [[42]], wherein, for a given electronic document received by the input unit: the first time of day is specified by at least an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

      a first of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to an entity originating the given electronic document; and

      a second of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the location of a physical document corresponding to the given electronic document.

44.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein a third of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to a task associated with the given electronic document;

      a fourth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the physical document that corresponds to the given electronic document, wherein an attribute in the fourth table includes a type of physical document; and

      a fifth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a unique value for the given document, wherein the unique value is formed by a combination of a value of a first key of the first table and a value of a second key of the second table.

the first electronic document originated from a first physical document converted into the first electronic document.

45.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

46-47. (Canceled)

48.   (Currently Amended) A document management system, comprising:

first means for receiving a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

second means for generating a unique time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein the time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents corresponds to a point in time at which the corresponding electronic document was received, wherein the second means is coupled to the first means; ~~and~~

third means for storing each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents using the corresponding time-based identifier, wherein the third means is coupled to the second means;

wherein the third means is configured to store, for each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents, a respective plurality of attributes relating to ~~record associated with~~ that electronic document in each of a plurality of tables of a relational database, wherein each of the plurality of tables includes the generated unique time-based identifier as one of its respective plurality of attributes, and wherein at least one of the plurality of tables includes a first attribute ~~the record~~ containing~~[[s]]~~ information indicating a ~~the physical~~ location of ~~an original~~ physical document corresponding to that electronic document; and

fourth means for accessing, ~~wherein~~ for a given one of the succession of electronic documents, the respective plurality of attributes for the given document in at least one of the plurality of tables using the ~~one or more of the stored electronic documents are retrievable using their~~ corresponding unique time-based identifier~~[[s]]~~ for the given electronic document.

49.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein a unique time-based identifier for a given one of the succession of electronic documents corresponds to a date and a time of day within that date that the given electronic document was received into the document management system.

50.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes one or more documents, each of which is converted from a corresponding first physical document.

51.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes one or more documents, each of which corresponds to an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

52.   (Currently Amended) The document management system of claim 48, ~~wherein, for a~~ given one of the succession of electronic documents:

      a first of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to an entity originating the given electronic document; and

      a second of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the location of a physical document corresponding to the given electronic document.

~~further comprising:~~

      ~~fourth means for generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents;~~

      ~~wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.~~

53.   (Currently Amended) The document management system of claim 52, wherein:

      a third of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to a task associated with the given electronic document; and

      a fourth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the physical document that corresponds to the given electronic document, wherein an attribute in the fourth table includes a type of physical document.

~~further comprising:~~

      ~~fifth means for updating, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.~~

54.   (Currently Amended) The document management system of claim 53, wherein a fifth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a unique value for the given document, wherein the

unique value is formed by a combination of a value of a first key of the first table and a value of a second key of the second table.

~~each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes.~~

55.   (Canceled)

56.   (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable memory medium <u>having</u> ~~storing program~~ instructions <u>stored thereon</u> that, <u>if</u> ~~are computer~~ execut<u>ed</u>[[able]] <u>by a computing device, cause the computing device</u> to:

    receive a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

    generate a unique time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each unique time-based identifier corresponds to the point in time at which the corresponding electronic document was received; ~~and~~

    ~~store each of at least a subset of the electronic documents in a storage system at a corresponding storage location corresponding to the unique time-based identifier for that electronic document; and~~

    store, <u>in a storage array, and</u> for ~~each~~ <u>at least one</u> of at least [[a]] <u>the</u> subset of the received electronic documents, <u>a respective plurality of attributes relating to the at least one electronic document in each of a plurality of tables of a relational database accessible to the computing device, wherein each of the plurality of tables includes as one of its respective plurality of attributes the unique time-based identifier corresponding to the at least one electronic document, and wherein at least one of the plurality of tables includes a first attribute</u> ~~record associated with that electronic document, wherein the record~~ contain<u>ing</u>[[s]] information indicating <u>a</u> ~~the physical~~ location of ~~an original~~ <u>physical</u> document corresponding to ~~that~~ <u>the at least one</u> electronic document;

    <u>access</u> ~~wherein~~ <u>the plurality of attributes for the at least one of the received electronic documents in at least one of the plurality of tables using the</u> ~~each of at least a subset of the stored electronic documents is retrievable from the storage system using its~~ corresponding unique time-based identifier <u>for the at least one electronic document</u>.

57.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 56, wherein a unique time-based identifier for a first electronic document corresponds to a first-date and a first time of day at which the first electronic document was received into the document management system.

58.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document corresponds to a first physical document converted into the first electronic document.

59.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

60.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first time of day is specified at least by an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

61.   (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 56 [[57]], wherein, for a given one of the succession of electronic documents:
        a first of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to an entity originating the given electronic document; and
        a second of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the location of a physical document corresponding to the given electronic document.
wherein the program instructions are further executable to:
        generate a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.

62.   (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 61, wherein:

      a third of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to a task associated with the given electronic document; and

      a fourth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a plurality of attributes relating to the physical document that corresponds to the given electronic document, wherein an attribute in the fourth table includes a type of physical document.

~~the program instructions are further executable to:~~

      ~~for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, update one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.~~

63.   (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 62, wherein a fifth of the plurality of tables is configured to store a unique value for the given document, wherein the unique value is formed by a combination of a value of a first key of the first table and a value of a second key of the second table.

~~each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes.~~

64.   (Canceled)

65.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the received electronic documents include imaged electronic documents~~, and wherein said retrieving the electronic document from the storage system includes presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage system~~.

66.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41,

      wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents, and wherein a given one of the succession of electronic documents is retrievable from the storage array ~~system~~ by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage array ~~system~~.

67.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48,

wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents; and

wherein a given stored electronic document is retrievable from the third means by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the third means.

68.   (Currently Amended) The tangible computer memory medium of claim 56, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents, and wherein a given electronic document stored in the storage system is retrievable by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage <u>array</u> <s>system</s>.

69.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[24]] <u>36</u>, wherein for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, the <u>fifth table includes:</u> <s>stored associated record for that document contains</s>

at least a<u>n</u> <s>first</s> attribute indicating a physical type of the corresponding <s>original</s> physical document <u>for that electronic document;</u> and

a<u>n</u> <s>second</s> attribute indicating an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

70.   (Currently Amended) The document management system of claim [[41]] <u>44</u>, wherein the computer system is further configured to, for each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents, store in the <u>fifth table</u> <s>record associated with that document</s> a first attribute and a second attribute;

wherein the first attribute indicates a physical type of the corresponding <s>original</s> physical document; and

wherein the second attribute indicates an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

71.   (Currently Amended) The document management system of claim [[48]] <u>54</u>, wherein the <u>fifth table is configured to store, for</u> ~~fourth means include means for storing at least first and second attributes in the record associated with~~ each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents[[;]]<u>:</u>

        ~~wherein the~~ <u>a</u> first attribute indicat<u>ing</u>[[es]] a physical type of the corresponding ~~original~~ physical document <u>for that electronic document</u>; and

        ~~wherein the~~ <u>a</u> second attribute indicat<u>ing</u>[[es]] an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

72.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable memory medium of claim [[56]] <u>63</u>, wherein the <u>fifth table is configured to store, for</u> ~~record associated with~~ each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents<u>:</u> ~~contains at least a first attribute and a second attribute;~~

        ~~wherein the~~ <u>a</u> first attribute indicat<u>ing</u>[[es]] a physical type of the corresponding ~~original~~ physical document <u>for that electronic document</u>; and

        ~~wherein the~~ <u>a</u> second attribute indicat<u>ing</u>[[es]] an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

73-74. (Canceled)

75.   (New) A document management system comprising:

an input unit configured to receive a succession of electronic documents, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

a storage subsystem coupled to the input unit and configured to store the succession of electronic documents in a storage array using corresponding unique time-based identifiers;

a computer system coupled to both the input unit and the storage subsystem, wherein the computer system is configured to:

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents:

generate a unique time-based identifier corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received into the document management system; and

store a respective plurality of attributes relating to the electronic document in each of a plurality of tables of a relational database, wherein each of the plurality of tables includes the unique time-based identifier for the electronic document as one of its respective attributes; and

for at least a given one of the subset of the received electronic documents:

access the plurality of attributes for the given electronic document in at least one of the plurality of tables using the corresponding unique time-based identifier for the given electronic document; and

store the given electronic document in the storage array using the corresponding unique time-based identifier for the given electronic document, wherein the given electronic document is retrievable from the storage array using the corresponding unique time-based identifier.